

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (new): A visual programming system, comprising:

a plurality of functional modules each of which is preloaded with an applicable functional program which is part of a parent computer program designed to accomplish a predetermined objective, wherein each of said functional programs is developed to perform a predetermined operation, and is written in a computer-executable language and is displayed as a high-level computing language as human readable codes;

a plurality of determination modules electrically communicated with at least one of said functional modules, wherein each of said functional modules is pre-loaded with a determination program developed to perform a predetermined decision regarding an information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules, wherein each of said determination programs is written in a computer-executable language and is displayed as a high-level computing language as human readable codes; and

a user editing interface electrically communicated with said determination modules and said functional modules, in such a manner that a user is capable of individually accessing said applicable functional programs in said functional modules and said determination programs in said determination modules via said user editing interface for individually modifying said applicable functional programs and said determination programs in said human readable codes, so as to allow said user to conveniently and easily manage and amend said parent computer program by individually and selectively modifying said applicable functional programs and said determination programs without running an exhaustive debugging and re-programming procedure of said entire parent computer program in lengthy sources codes of said parent computer program.

Claim 22 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 21, wherein each of said determination programs has a determining test stored in said computer executable language for generating a true result and a false result when information from said corresponding functional module is inputted to said determining test, wherein each of said determination modules contains a determination input for

receiving said information generated from said corresponding applicable functional program, a “True” output electrically connecting with said corresponding functional module for directing said information thereto when a result of said determining test is true, and a “False” output electrically connecting with another of said corresponding functional module for directing said information thereto when a result of said determining test is false.

Claim 23 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 21, wherein each of said functional modules contains at least a connecting input and a connecting output for electrically connecting with other one of said functional modules and said determination modules for facilitating information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program.

Claim 24 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 22, wherein each of said functional modules contains at least a connecting input and a connecting output for electrically connecting with other one of said functional modules and said determination modules for facilitating information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program

Claim 25 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 21, further containing a plurality of information flow lines visibly connecting said functional modules and said determination modules for accurately indicating said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program, wherein said information flow lines are visibly displayed by said user editing interface for allowing said user to conveniently and easily modify said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules.

Claim 26 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 23, further containing a plurality of information flow lines visibly connecting said functional modules and said determination modules for accurately indicating said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program, wherein said information flow lines are visibly displayed by said user editing interface for allowing said user to conveniently and easily modify said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules.

Claim 27 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 24, further containing a plurality of information flow lines visibly connecting said functional modules

and said determination modules for accurately indicating said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program, wherein said information flow lines are visibly displayed by said user editing interface for allowing said user to conveniently and easily modify said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules.

Claim 28 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 26, further comprising a compiler electrically communicated with said functional modules and said determination modules for converting said human readable codes in said high-level computer language into said computer-executable language.

Claim 29 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 27, further comprising a compiler electrically communicated with said functional modules and said determination modules for converting said human readable codes in said high-level computer language into said computer-executable language.

Claim 30 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 28, wherein said user editing interface comprises a function module selection panel, a selected module panel, and an editorial management panel, wherein said function module selection panel is adapted to selectively initiate commands for controlling said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules, wherein when said command is selected from said function module selection panel, said command being selected appears in said selected module panel and, by arranging said commands being selected into a flow chart form, said user is able to manage, with visual assistance from said information flow lines, said corresponding applicable functional programs and said determination programs and said information flow.

Claim 31 (new): The visual programming system, as recited in claim 29, wherein said user editing interface comprises a function module selection panel, a selected module panel, and an editorial management panel, wherein said function module selection panel is adapted to selectively initiate commands for controlling said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules, wherein when said command is selected from said function module selection panel, said command being selected appears in said selected module panel and, by arranging said commands being selected into a flow chart form, said user is able to manage, with visual assistance from said information flow lines, said corresponding applicable functional programs and said determination programs and said information flow.

Claim 32 (new): A visual programming method, comprising the steps of:

(a) developing a plurality of functional modules each of which is preloaded with an applicable functional program which is part of a parent computer program designed to accomplish a predetermined objective, wherein each of said functional programs is developed to perform a predetermined operation, and is written in a computer-executable language and is displayed as a high-level computing language as human readable codes;

(b) developing a plurality of determination modules electrically communicated with at least one of said functional modules, wherein each of said functional modules is pre-loaded with a determination program developed to perform a predetermined decision regarding an information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules, wherein each of said determination programs is written in a computer-executable language and is displayed as a high-level computing language as human readable codes; and

(c) accessing said applicable functional programs in said functional modules and said determination programs in said determination modules via a user editing interface for individually modifying said applicable functional programs and said determination programs in said human readable codes, wherein said user is allowed to conveniently and easily manage and amend said parent computer program by individually and selectively modifying said applicable functional programs and said determination programs without running an exhaustive debugging and re-programming procedure of said entire parent computer program in lengthy sources codes of said parent computer program.

Claim 33 (new): The method, as recited in claim 32, said step (c) comprises a step of compiling said human readable codes by a compiler electrically communicated with said functional modules and said determination modules for converting said human readable codes in said high-level computer language into said computer-executable language.

Claim 34 (new): The method, as recited in claim 32, wherein in said step (b), each of said determination programs has a determining test stored in said computer executable language for generating a true result and a false result when information from said corresponding functional module is inputted to said determining test, wherein

each of said determination modules contains a determination input for receiving said information generated from said corresponding applicable functional program, a "True" output electrically connecting with said corresponding functional module for directing said information thereto when a result of said determining test is true, and a "False" output electrically connecting with another of said corresponding functional module for directing said information thereto when a result of said determining test is false.

Claim 35 (new): The method, as recited in claim 33, wherein in said step (b), each of said determination programs has a determining test stored in said computer executable language for generating a true result and a false result when information from said corresponding functional module is inputted to said determining test, wherein each of said determination modules contains a determination input for receiving said information generated from said corresponding applicable functional program, a "True" output electrically connecting with said corresponding functional module for directing said information thereto when a result of said determining test is true, and a "False" output electrically connecting with another of said corresponding functional module for directing said information thereto when a result of said determining test is false.

Claim 36 (new): The method, as recited in claim 34, further comprises a step, in between said step (b) and said step (c), of developing a plurality of information flow lines visibly connecting said functional modules and said determination modules for accurately indicating said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program, wherein said information flow lines are visibly displayed by said user editing interface for allowing said user to conveniently and easily modify said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules.

Claim 37 (new): The method, as recited in claim 35, further comprises a step, in between said step (b) and said step (c), of developing a plurality of information flow lines visibly connecting said functional modules and said determination modules for accurately indicating said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program, wherein said information flow lines are visibly displayed by said user editing interface for allowing said user to conveniently and easily modify said information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules.

Claim 38 (new): The method, as recited in claim 32, wherein each of said functional modules contains at least a connecting input and a connecting output for electrically connecting with other one of said functional modules and said determination modules for facilitating information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program.

Claim 39 (new): The method, as recited in claim 36, wherein each of said functional modules contains at least a connecting input and a connecting output for electrically connecting with other one of said functional modules and said determination modules for facilitating information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program.

Claim 40 (new): The method, as recited in claim 37, wherein each of said functional modules contains at least a connecting input and a connecting output for electrically connecting with other one of said functional modules and said determination modules for facilitating information flow between said functional modules and said determination modules within said parent computer program.